THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Month-wise details of wheat lifted out of Central Pool during the period January, 2005 to December, 2005 are given below:-

(in lakh tonnes)

Month	Offtake of Wheat		
	TPDS	Other Schemes	Total
January, 2005	12.42	3.92	16.34
February, 2005	11.87	3.21	15.08
March, 2005	11.79	6.41	18.20
April, 2005	8.80	5.17	13.97
May, 2005	10.19	3.46	13.65
June, 2005	11.08	8.49	19.57
July, 2005	11.48	3.87	15.35
August, 2005	9.43	3.62	13.05
September, 2005	10.40	3.09	13.49
October, 2005	9.55	2.35	11.90
November, 2005	8.94	3.09	12.03
December, 2005	9.21	4.54	13.75

(c) A quantity of 61.88 lakh tonnes of wheat was available with FCI in Central Pool as on 01.01.2006.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Procurement of foodgrains by private companies

†398. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that in addition to Food Corporation of India, private sector companies are also purchasing foodgrains for storage in Government godowns;

(b) if so, the names of those companies and places where the purchase centres have been established by these companies;

(c) the amount to be paid to these companies for performing the purchase responsibility; and

(d) to what extend this amount is more or less when compared to the purchase expenditure of the F.C.I?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, in addition to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Govt. Agencies, one Private Sector company namely National Collateral Management Services Ltd. (NCMSL), Mumbai is purchasing Paddy on behalf of FCI under Price Support Scheme during KMS 2005-06 and depositing rice with FCI after milling NCMSL is procuring paddy in Balaghat Revenue District of FCI, Jabalpur Division in Madhya Pradesh and in the Revenue Districts of Bolangir, Naupara, Balasore and Bhadrak in Orissa.

(c) The amount paid to NCMSL for performing purchase responsibilities is at par with the incidental charges fixed by Govt. of India for payment of State Agencies for KMS 2005-06.

(d) The amount paid to the Private Sector Company NCMSL is almost equivalent to the purchase expenditure of FCI and at par with the expenditure sanctioned to State Govt. Agencies.

Wheat import

†599. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken the decision to import wheat in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.